This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A device for effecting a desired contraction of a discrete target region of a tissue so as to treat incontinence, the target region having a target region size and shape, the device comprising:

a static vaginal probe having a treatment surface, the treatment surface size and shape corresponding to the size and shape of the target region and having a length of at least 10 mm and a width of at least 5 mm; and

at least one rounded protruding element having a radius of curvature in a range from about 0.05 mm to about 2 mm disposed along the treatment surface and engageable against the target region for transmitting energy from the treatment surface to the target region without moving the probe such that the energy effects the desired contraction of the target tissue without ablating the target tissue, and so that the contracted target tissue inhibits the incontinence.

20. (Original) The device of claim 19, wherein the at least one element comprises a plurality of electrodes distributed across the treatment surface of the probe so as to define an array.

21. (Original) The device of claim 20, further comprising a power source coupled to the electrodes of the array via circuitry that delivers sufficient electrical power through the electrodes to the target tissue to effect the desired contraction of the target region without charring and without ablating the tissue.

22. (Previously presented) The device of claim 19, further comprising a thin flat probe body defining the treatment surface, wherein the treatment surface is at least semi-rigid.

23. (Previously presented) The device of claim 19, wherein the probe body has an expansion member for urging the at least one element against the target tissue.

24. (Original) The device of claim 19, wherein the at least one element comprises a conduit for a hot fluid.

25. (Original) The device of claim 19, wherein the treatment surface has a length in a range from about 10 mm to about 50 mm and a width in a range from about 5 mm to about 30 mm.

26. (Original) The device of claim 19, further comprising an energy source coupled to the element so as to deliver the energy to the element with minimal collateral damage to the target tissue.

27. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein the at least one element defines a central treatment area and a peripheral treatment area, and wherein the energy source independently energizes the peripheral area to contract tissues brought into contact with the treatment surface from previous tissue contraction.

28-34 (Canceled)

35. (Previously presented) The device of claim 19, wherein the at least one element comprises a pair of elongate electrodes.

36. (Previously presented) The device of claim 35, wherein the electrodes are adapted to transmit bipolar electrical energy to the target region.

37. (Previously presented) The device of claim 35, further comprising control means coupled to the electrodes for controlling the transmitted energy so that the target region is heated to a temperature in a range from about 70 °C to about 140 °C.

38. (Previously presented) The device of claim 35, wherein the electrodes are separated by a separation distance in a range from about 1 to about 10 times a radius of curvature of the electrodes.

39. (Previously presented) The device of claim 19, wherein the at least one element has a mechanism that limits transmitted energy so as to avoid ablation of the target tissue.

40. (Previously presented) The probe of claim 39, wherein the limit mechanism comprises a thermal mass, the at least one element comprising a heat transfer surface thermally coupled to the thermal mass, the thermal mass transferring a significant portion of the energy when the heat transfer surface cools from a safe tissue temperature toward body temperature.

41. (Previously presented) The probe of claim 39, wherein the limit mechanism comprises a reaction mass that reacts to transfer the energy and which is depleted when the energy is transferred.

42. (Currently amended) A device for heating a target fascial tissue so as to treat incontinence, the target tissue having a fascial surface, the device comprising:

a static vaginal probe body having a treatment surface, the treatment surface being oriented for engaging the fascial surface, the probe body having a length in a range from about 10 mm to about 50 mm and a width in a range from about 5 mm to about 30 mm; and

at least two protruding electrodes having a rounded surface and a radius of curvature in a range from about 0.05 mm to about 2 mm disposed over the treatment

surface for transmitting bipolar electrical energy into the engaged target tissue without moving the probe such that the energy heats the target tissue so as inhibit the incontinence.

43. (Previously presented) The device of claim 41, wherein the probe body comprises a thin flat structure, the treatment surface defining a major surface of the probe body.

44. (Previously presented) The device of claim 41, wherein the probe body is semi-rigid or rigid.

45. (Previously presented) The device of claim 41, further comprising a power source coupled to the electrodes via circuitry that delivers sufficient bipolar electrical power through the electrodes to the target tissue to effect heating of the target tissue without charring and without ablating the tissue.

46. (Previously presented) The device of claim 41, wherein the electrodes have an elongate shape.

47. (Previously presented) A device for effecting a desired contraction of a discrete target region of a tissue so as to treat incontinence, the target region having a target region size and shape, the device comprising:

a probe having a treatment surface, the treatment surface size and shape corresponding to the size and shape of the target region and having a length of at least 10 mm and a width of at least 5 mm; and

at least one element disposed along the treatment surface for transmitting energy from the treatment surface to the target region without moving the probe such that the energy effects the desired contraction of the target tissue without ablating the target tissue, and so that the contracted target tissue inhibits the incontinence;

wherein the at least one element has a mechanism that limits transmitted energy so as to avoid ablation of the target tissue, wherein the limit mechanism comprises a thermal mass, the at least one element comprising a heat transfer surface thermally coupled to the thermal mass, the thermal mass transferring a significant portion of the energy when the heat transfer surface cools from a safe tissue temperature toward body temperature.

48. (Previously presented) A device for effecting a desired contraction of a discrete target region of a tissue so as to treat incontinence, the target region having a target region size and shape, the device comprising:

a probe having a treatment surface, the treatment surface size and shape corresponding to the size and shape of the target region and having a length of at least 10 mm and a width of at least 5 mm; and

at least one element disposed along the treatment surface for transmitting energy from the treatment surface to the target region without moving the probe such that the energy effects the desired contraction of the target tissue without ablating the target tissue, and so that the contracted target tissue inhibits the incontinence;

wherein the at least one element has a mechanism that limits transmitted energy so as to avoid ablation of the target tissue, wherein the limit mechanism comprises a reaction mass that reacts to transfer the energy and which is depleted when the energy is transferred.

49. (New) A device for effecting a desired contraction of a discrete target region of a tissue so as to treat incontinence, the target region having a target region size and shape, the device comprising:

a vaginal probe having a treatment surface, the treatment surface size and shape corresponding to the size and shape of the target region and having a length of at least 10 mm and a width of at least 5 mm; and

at least one protruding element having a radius of curvature in a range from about 0.05 mm to about 2 mm disposed along the treatment surface for transmitting energy from the treatment surface to the target region without moving the probe such that the energy effects the desired contraction of the target tissue without ablating the target tissue, and so that the contracted target tissue inhibits the incontinence;

wherein the probe body has an expansion member for urging the at least one element against the target tissue.

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